

Wayne County Warden's House
E. Main St. and Fifth St.
Centerville
Wayne County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-105

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WAYNE COUNTY WARDEN'S HOUSE
(Masonic Hall)

HABS No. IN-105

Location: North side of East Main Street (U.S. 40), northwest corner of Fifth Street, Centerville, Wayne County, Indiana.

Present Owner/
Occupant: Hiram Lodge, No. 42, Free and Accepted Masons.

Present Use: Meeting Hall.

Significance: This Italianate style building which features stone surrounds on arched window openings and stone quoining was designed by Isaac Hodgson, a prominent Indianapolis architect.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1867.
2. Architect: Isaac Hodgson. Hodgson was a prominent Indianapolis architect who designed several Indiana county courthouses including those in Jennings County (1859), Morgan County (1857), Henry County, Bartholomew County (1871), and his largest in Marion County, in Indianapolis. He also designed other jails, notably one in Dayton constructed in 1869-76.

Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana (Cincinnati, Ohio, ca. 1880), 7th District, pp. 94-95, says this about Hodgson:

"Hodgson, Isaac, architect, of Indianapolis, was born in Belfast, North Ireland, December 16, 1826. His paternal grandfather was Isaac Hodgson; his maternal grandfather, William Patton. The subject of this sketch was the son of Jackson and Eliza (Patton) Hodgson, and was one of eleven children. Isaac attended the parochial schools and Royal Academy during his early youth and at the age of sixteen entered the office of Charles Lanyard, afterwards Sir Charles, a well-known architect. Here he remained three years and in 1848 he sailed for the new world, landing in New York. In that place he met the family of his uncle who had emigrated at an early date; had been lieutenant of a battery in the War of 1812, and afterwards colonel of a New York regiment.

"He left New York for the growing west, and, reaching Decatur, Indiana, he remained there two years, pursuing his profession, and marrying Miss Mary Ann Edwards, a lady of Scotch descent, and daughter of a leading merchant and mill-owner of the county. In 1849, he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and became assistant architect in the government buildings then being erected. On the completion of this work, he removed to Indianapolis, where he still resides, and where numerous buildings, public and private, attest his skill. During the late war Mr. Hodgson had charge, as architect and superintendent of the arsenal buildings.

"The courthouses in Marion, and many other counties in this and adjoining states, are monuments of his architectural labors. He erected the Alvord Block, Indianapolis, besides numerous residences, among the most elegant and costly in the city; the Polytechnic Institute Terre Haute, and designed the Rose Orphan Asylum, in the same city. He also erected the Indiana Female Reformatory buildings, and numerous prisons, of which the one in Dayton is a model of strength and neatness, and was erected at a cost of a quarter of a million, the other ranging from twenty five thousand dollars to sixty thousand dollars each, and distributed through various states.

"He was the successful architect and superintendent of the new Marion County Courthouse. This building was begun in 1869 and completed in 1876, at a cost of one million five hundred dollars. It is visited by thousands every year, and is much admired for its combined durability and beauty. Mr. Hodgson has attained the thirty-second degree in Scotch Masonry and is a member of the Indianapolis Consistory. The Hodgsons for generations have been Episcopalians. Mr. Hodgson's history is its own best commentary. A patient, persistent, worker, he has steadily built himself up, and is an honored and respected member of society, a stanch friend and a good citizen.

3. Original and subsequent owners:

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|------|--|
| 1873 | Deed of June 15, 1874, recorded in Book 59, p. 478.
Wayne County to Sabra Jones. |
| 1880 | Deed of February 17, 1880, recorded in Book 38, p. 263.
Sabra Jones to Omer Hittle. |
| 1881 | Deed of June 13, 1881, recorded in Book 73, p. 553.
Omer Hittle to Eben and Laura Muse. |

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The property changed hands a number of times between 1881 and 1894.

- 1894 Deed of December 14, 1894, recorded in Book 102, p. 90. Simon McConaha to Franklin and McCord Frazier.
- 1924 Deed of February 26, 1924, recorded in Book 166, p.333. Heirs of Franklin and McCord Frazier to the Masonic Order, Hiram Lodge.

- 4. Original plans and construction: Originally a twenty-cell jail block extended behind the building. The jail was constructed after repeated warnings from the grand jury appointed to inspect the old 1821 prison that the jail was insufficient in size and ventilation.

In January, 1867, the commissioners advertised for bids in Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Wayne County papers. On May 2, 1867, the commissioners contracted with the following firms:

Norris and D.J. Jones, Wayne County brickmaker, for bricks.

Gebhard and Sanders of Dayton for the galvanizing and slate roofing of the building, costing \$3,475.

B. F. Haugh and Company, Indianapolis, for all the scaffolding, wrought iron, cast iron, and plumbing.

J. Farman of Indianapolis for all the cut stone, costing \$11,000.

The completed building was built for \$80,000.

One of the most surprising aspects of Hodgson's design is that he mixed French Second Empire and Italianate styles. The house is closely related to the Second Empire Marion County Courthouse in Indianapolis except that it does not have a mansard roof. It is also closely related to the Jennings County Courthouse, which is a structure in Italianate villa style with a prominent tower.

- 5. Alterations and additions: When the county seat was moved to Richmond in 1873, the twenty-cell jail itself was removed and transferred to the new county seat. The warden's house subsequently became a private residence.

The greatest alteration was made shortly after the Masons purchased the property in 1924. At this time a large addition was made to the east of the building to create a large lodge hall on the ground floor. "After much discussion and study, it was decided to alter the interior of the building, adding to the length and building an addition on the east end, making some other changes, still retaining the dignified architectural design of the original structure" ("History of Freemasonry," p. 19).

This addition is immediately apparent on the outside although the detailing was carefully matched. On the inside it is not clear how great the renovations were since the trim is similar throughout, even in the addition. It was perhaps at this time that the stairway was transferred from the central hall to the left front room.

B. Sources of Information:

Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana. Cincinnati, Ohio, ca. 1880. 2 vols.

Burns, Lee. "Early Architects and Builders of Indiana," Publications of the Indiana Historical Society. Vol. 11, no. 3.

Fox, Henry Clay. Memoirs of Wayne County and the City of Richmond. Madison, Wisconsin, 1912. 2 vols.

"History of Freemasonry, Centerville, Indiana." 1968.

Indiana, a Guide to the Hoosier State, Writer's Program. New York, ca. 1941.

Interstate Publishing Company, History of Wayne County, Indiana. Chicago, 1884.

Records of the Wayne County Commissioners. Vol. 6, 1867.

Richmond Weekly Telegram. June 16, 1866; July 14, 1866.

Spahr, Walter E. History of Centerville, Indiana. Richmond, Indiana, 1966.

Whallon, Arthur. "Centerville, Indiana, A National Road Town." n.p., n.d.

Young, H. History of Wayne County, Indiana. Cincinnati and Chicago, 1872.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A mixture of the Second Empire and Italianate styles with brick walls, arched stone window openings, an elaborate cornice, and an elegant ornamental iron entry stair.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good. It has had extensive alterations.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 70' (four-bay front) x 33', two stories.
2. Foundation: Random ashlar, capped by a single course of cut stone which projects. The foundations of the addition have cement facing.
3. Wall construction: Red brick, stretcher bond, with stone quoining. There is a molded projecting string course at the second-story sill line and one at the attic sill line. Plainer string courses run at the first-floor sill line and below the arch springings of the first- and second-story windows. North and east walls are plain.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing wall with wood joists and rafters. The relatively long span beam at the addition line may be steel.
5. Porches, stoops: The shallow two-story brick entry projection has stone corners, a window with lyre-like stone base ornaments on the second floor and a triangular pediment above the bracketed cornice. A finely detailed ornamental iron stair and railing with elaborate newel posts leads to an arched stone entry with a deeply recessed doorway; the squared side pilasters have geometric molded panels and squared Roman Doric-like capitals which support a molded round arch with a cartouche keystone. Metal work is painted black and the panelled recess and soffit are painted white.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney with no cap.
7. Openings:

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- a. Doorways and doors: The double wood doors have large glass lights with rounded corners and single molded panels below. There is an arched transom above. All wood is painted white.
- b. Windows and shutters: The windows have four-over-four-light double-hung sash. The wide, plain stone surrounds have round arches on the first floor and segmental arches on the second floor. Windows are paired on the front and have squared colonettes between. All wood is painted white.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Simple hip roof with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed cornice with molded fascia, modillions, paired brackets, and a relatively shallow molded frieze. All wood is painted white. Gutter and leader are metal, painted white.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entry vestibule opens on the left to the stair hall which has a north opening to a sitting area. To the right of the vestibule is a large meeting room which has a kitchen north of the vestibule wall.
- b. Second floor: The stair leads to a small corridor with offices and toilets. A meeting hall is on the east above the lower one.

2. Stairway: The open-well main stairway has two flights at right angles. All wood is stained dark brown.

3. Flooring: Wood plank.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: Doors are high, with eight molded panels in four unequal tiers. All wood is stained dark brown.

6. Decorative features and trim: Window trim is similar to doors. Upper sash head is rectangular, with arched wood fillers to match the stone arches on the exterior.

7. Mechanical equipment: Warm air furnace. All wiring is concealed.

- D. Site: The site is on a corner of the downtown business area. There is a large front lawn with open space on the west and north.

Prepared by: Mort Karp
Project Supervisor
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The project was completed in the summer of 1974 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; and Associate Professor Mort Karp of the University of Arkansas, Project Supervisor; Architect Harry Hunderman (University of Michigan); and student assistant architects Scott Barnard (University of Pennsylvania), Mark Hall (Pennsylvania State University), and Richard Perlmutter (Yale University); and architectural historian Robert Bruegmann (University of Pennsylvania) at the HABS Field Office at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in January, 1975. The written historical and architectural data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.

ADDENDUM TO
WAYNE COUNTY WARDEN'S HOUSE
(MASONIC HALL)
East Main Street and Fifth Street
Centerville
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